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The Mission of the Kansas City Missouri Police Department, in partnership with the community, is to protect life and property while reducing fear and disorder.

Vision

The KCPD is a premier police agency with a national reputation for excellence that provides innovative and equitable police service to its community through a highly motivated and engaged workforce.

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INFORMANT

The Kansas City Missouri Police Department

November 2010

Voters renew public safety sales tax

Both Questions 1 and 2 on the November ballot were approved by Kansas City voters

Kansas City voters overwhelmingly voted to renew the quarter-cent public safety sales tax for another 15 years on Nov. 2.

Residents approved the extension by a margin of 70 to 30 percent.

They also approved a measure allowing the city to issue bonds to get large construction projects underway in the next three to four years. Some of those projects include new East and North patrol division stations and a new Regional Crime Lab.

"This was a clear indication that the people of this city value a place where police have the best tools available to fight crime," Chief James Corwin said.

Voters first approved the tax in 2002. That funded new Shoal Creek, Metro, South and Special Operations division stations, a new police academy and some renovations of Headquarters.

In addition to the new buildings, the tax extension will fund a new city-wide radio system, new police helicopters, new police vehicles, modernization of police equipment and a real-time crime center.



Both the North Patrol (top) and East Patrol (bottom) stations are in poor condition. Part of the 1/4 cent sales tax will allow the KCPD to build a new East Patrol and North Patrol.

Board Reviews Mandatory Retirements

Board approved moratorium on mandatory retirements through Dec. 31, 2010

The Board of Police Commissioners will decide whether to change the department's 30-year mandatory retirement policy by the end of the year, and they've imposed a moratorium on mandatory retirements until then.

At the Oct. 26 Board meeting, the Board passed a resolution to stop enforcing the 1956 resolution that requires officers to retire after 30 years of service.

They ruled that no officer who comes upon 30 years of service between now and Dec. 31, 2010,

or whenever analysis of retirement changes is complete (whichever comes first), will be forced to retire.

The resolution took immediate effect and will affect any officer who will reach 30 years of service between now and Dec. 31.

"I think what the board is most focused on is the viability of the retirement system," Board President Patrick McInerney said. "We have to be able to keep the promise that we made to department members, and there is a lot of concern about the health of the retirement system."

The Board is considering several options for how to change the

"The most important thing is making sure that people's futures are protected."

- Commissioner Lisa Pelofsky

retirement policy. Some options extend the years of service requirement to 32 or 35 years or eliminate it entirely. The options also vary on whether to calculate and fix the retirement benefit at 30 years or 32 years.

"It's about sustainability," Commissioner Lisa Pelofsky said. "The most important thing is mak-

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Dept. moving to web-based criminal info. system

The REJIS system will allow for e-ticketing

The Kansas City Missouri Police Department was ahead of its time in 1968 when it launched ALERT, the first computerized criminal justice information system in the state.

Now the department is taking the next step forward by moving from ALERT (Automated Law Enforcement Response Team) to REJIS (Regional Justice Information System). REJIS, based in St. Louis, will be a web-based system that is easier to use and will allow the department to move forward with e-ticketing.

"The goal of all of this is to provide accurate, timely information to officers in the field for officer safety," said Sergeant Joy Colmar, assistant project manager for the REJIS transition.

Payroll, time-keeping, and a few other functions will remain in ALERT, but police information will move to REJIS.

The department and City of Kansas City signed the contract for REJIS in August and are migrating data into the new system. Training for all personnel who use the police function of ALERT will begin in the spring, and the whole REJIS system is planned to go live by Labor Day 2011.

"REJIS is very user-friendly," Sgt. Colmar said. "You can see driver's license photos, and it's web-based, so you don't have to know all the codes to run queries. You just click a button."

Like ALERT, REJIS will allow officers to run subjects for



Officer Mitchell Branch checks for warrants using the ALERT system. The department will soon be switching out the ALERT system with the REJIS system.

warrants and probation/parole status, will check for stolen automobiles and keep statistics on arrests, accidents and offenses.

But REJIS also will allow the department to use e-ticketing. The Municipal Court already is moving to this paperless alternative, so the City is funding the police department's switch to REJIS so it can be compatible.

E-ticketing will be virtually paperless. Gone will be the days of triplicate citations with sheets of carbon paper.

Officers will soon have computers with small printers in their cars (or a hand-held version for people like motorcycle officers) to enter citation information. They will then print a receipt-like ticket for the violator. The computer already will have transferred the citation information to the police department and to Municipal Court.

REJIS also will require an additional layer of security, she said. Officers will likely carry a key fob, commonly referred to as a token, that automatically generates log-in numbers to access the system.

REJIS is a quasi-governmental entity. It is governed by a Commission whose members are mostly police chiefs whose agencies participate in the system. The 120 area agencies who currently subscribe to ALERT will have the opportunity to join REJIS or subscribe to another criminal justice information system.

News in Brief

Find the KCPD on Facebook



The KCPD has launched a fan page on Facebook. Become a fan of the KCPD and get the latest safety tips, photos, videos, and event invites. Check it out at: www.facebook.com/kcpolice.

Self Defense Videos for sale

Learn to defend yourself with a Self Defense DVD taught by KCPD Police Academy defense instructors. Copies are \$10 plus \$3 shipping. To get a copy, call 816-413-3500 or email angela.mccune@kcpd.org

Chimp attacks KCPD police car and gets worldwide attention

Kansas City Police made international news in mid-October when an escaped pet chimpanzee attacked a police car.

About 10,500 people watched the dash-cam video of the incident on KCPD's YouTube site, and another 5,000 clicked on Chief James Corwin's blog to read the full story. News outlets throughout the U.S. and Europe broadcasted the news.

The chimp eventually was taken into custody and is now a resident of the Kansas City Zoo.



Neither the ape nor any people were hurt. The owner was cited for having the animal in city limits.

KCPD breaks ground for new south KC stations

Construction has begun on South Patrol and Special Operations division stations and will open 2013

Pioneers once found a safe haven at the Hart Grove Camp Ground as they headed west on the Santa Fe, Oregon and California Trails.

This location will be a safe haven once again as the site of the new South Patrol and Special Operations division stations.

At a ceremony on Oct. 29, police and city officials broke ground on the site, 9701 Marion Park Drive, which is behind the Home Depot on Bannister Road.

Construction is now underway at the site, and the KCPD expects the facilities to be completed in spring 2013.

"These facilities are badly needed," Chief James Corwin said during his ceremony speech. "The current South Patrol Division was built in 1978 and is not serving the needs of officers or residents. ... Our Special Operations Division is housed in an even worse location – a dilapidated, old warehouse—with horrible leaks and mold—that had previously caught fire. Our officers and the community deserve better."

The \$28 million project is being funded by the ¼-cent public safety sales tax voters passed in 2002.

It will include the construction of new



KCPD hosted a groundbreaking ceremony on Oct. 29 for the new division stations.

stations for the South Patrol and Special Operations divisions; a multipurpose building that will have office space, a gym, work-out facilities and back-up 911 center; two vehicle storage buildings and a fueling site; and kennels and office space for the Canine Section.

The groundbreaking ceremony brought together police and city officials, community members, and elected officials. Many voiced their belief that the facilities will

spur development in the area, increase police presence and deter crime.

"It shows the department's and the city's commitment to this great part of the city," Police Board President Patrick McNerney said during his speech. "... Today this department sinks roots into the southeast part of Kansas City that will last generations."

For more information and to see site plans, visit www.kcmo.org/police and click on "South Patrol."

Officially Speaking ...

Awards

Certificate of Commendation

Officer Charles Chambers

Officer Clinton Crum

Detective Catherine Johnson

Officer Mario Moore

Officer Samantha Parkhurst

Detective Kimberly Shirley-Williams

Detective Mark Spiegel

Officer Michael Wells

Purple Heart

Officer Frank Rorabaugh

Retirement

Major Michael McQuillen

Obituaries

Retired Sergeant William Linhart

Retired Auto Mechanic Frank Graham

Retired Detective Jackie Gulick

RETIREMENT, CONT. FROM P. 1

ing sure that people's futures are protected."

Many factors brought the reconsideration of the 30-year mandatory retirement requirement to the forefront.

Command staff and police commissioners agree that because of this requirement, the department has lost experienced and knowledgeable officers. Many of these officers choose to continue their careers in leadership positions at other departments.

The Retirement Board also has raised concerns about the long-term funding of the retirement system, given the current funding levels and expected city contributions.

"Over the last 10 years, investment returns have not been where they should be, the city contribu-

tions to the plan are not coming in at the levels recommended by the actuary, and allowing members to work longer is one of the ways to help improve the financial health of the retirement system," said Jim Pyle, pension systems manager.

Sergeant Brad Dumit, president of the Fraternal Order of Police, said the FOP is gathering information about the options being considered and hosting educational meetings for its members.

He said the main concern of the FOP is stagnation of the ranks if the mandatory retirement age is extended or lifted.

"We're going to review our options and try to make the best fit for what best benefits our members," he said.



Off the Clock: Officer Bruce Crosby moonlights as comedian

Officer Crosby recently won Kansas City Comic of the Year

Although there's a lot of funny stuff police encounter, Officer Bruce Crosby doesn't mention any of it on stage.

"I don't talk about the job," he said. "Unfortunately, you'd probably lose a lot of the crowd if they knew you were a police officer."

Crosby works dogwatch at Central Patrol Division, but during his off time, he's a stand-up comedian. In September, he won Kansas City Comic of the Year, beating out 70 other contestants in a multi-week contest at the venerable Stanford & Sons Comedy Club.

"I hope that will open some doors for me to get into bigger clubs and start travelling," Officer Crosby said.

Craig Glazer, Stanford & Sons director of operations and a judge of the contest, said Crosby has tremendous stage presence and confidence and connected with the crowd.

"His sense of observational humor is right on the money," Glazer said. "He's funny because you say, 'Hey, that happened to me.'"

Crosby said he taps his personal life for material and finds that every crowd is differ-



Submitted photo

Officer Bruce Crosby is a stand-up comedian during his off time.

ent. Some jokes go over very well with one audience but fall flat on the next.

But Crosby said there's one topic that can get a chuckle out of just about everyone: divorce. His typical joke goes like this:

"My doctor said, 'You're carrying around a lot of extra weight. You've got to lose it or it's going to kill you.' So I come back a few months later and said, 'Well, Doc, I've lost 140 pounds. It wasn't easy, but I finally divorced her, and I'm feeling better already.'"

Officer Crosby said he performs about three or four times a month. He said he prefers to do his show at comedy clubs over bars because crowds are more attentive at comedy clubs.

His schedule working the Watch I shift can make it difficult to book shows, but he tries to find the time.

Officer Crosby said that although he doesn't talk about his job on stage, it has prepared him for one aspect of performing.

"It definitely helps with the hecklers," he said.

He said he'd love to someday travel the country and do big shows, and he hopes his new title of Kansas City Comic of the Year will help launch that.

Officer Crosby's next gig will be at 7 p.m. Nov. 15 at the University of Kansas in Lawrence. He'll be performing in Alderson Auditorium in the Kansas Union as part of the Laughing the Pieces Together fund-raiser for children with autism.

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